1	Seth M. Sproul (CA SBN: 217711)		
2	FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. 12860 El Camino Real		
	Ste 400		
3	San Diego, CA 92130		
4	Tel: (858) 678-4343 / Fax: (858) 678-5099		
5	sproul@fr.com		
6	John S. Goetz (NY SBN: 4295366) (pro hac vice Alexander Mazza (NY SBN: 5752704) (pro hac	,	
7	FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.  7 Times Square  20th Floor  New York, NY 10036  Tel: (212) 765-5070 / Fax: (212) 258-2291  goetz@fr.com  mazza@fr.com		
8			
9			
10			
11	Susmitha Sayana (DE SBN: 007337) (pro hac vi	ice to be filed)	
12	FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. 222 Delaware Ave 17th Floor Wilmington, DE 19801 Tel: (302) 778-8417 / Fax: (302) 652-0607		
13			
14			
<ul><li>15</li><li>16</li></ul>	Attorneys for Petitioner Sckipio Technologies S.I. Ltd.		
17	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
18			
19	In re: Application Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782 of Sckipio Technologies S.I. Ltd.,	Case No	
20	PETITIONER,	APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING MEMORANDUM FOR AN ORDER	
21		DIRECTING BROADCOM CORPORATION TO RESPOND TO	
22	- To take the discovery of -	DISCOVERY REQUESTS PURSUANT TO	
23	Broadcom Corporation,	28 U.S.C. § 1782 FOR USE IN A FOREIGN PROCEEDING	
<ul><li>24</li><li>25</li></ul>	RESPONDENT.		
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### I. INTRODUCTION

In Germany, Telekom Deutschland GmbH ("DT") provides several broadband internet services to its customers including its so-called "Super-Vectoring" service, which implements ITU-T Recommendation<sup>1</sup> G.993.5 ("G.Vector Standard"). Sckipio is currently negotiating a standards-essential-patent ("SEP") license agreement with DT in Germany concerning DT's Super-Vectoring service (and related services) and those negotiations include one of Sckipio's patents that is essential to Annex A of the G.Vector Standard.<sup>2</sup> Litigation in Germany ("the Germany Proceeding") will ensue if those negotiations do not yield a license in the coming months.<sup>3</sup>

DT has taken the position that Annex A of the G.Vector Standard is merely an optional functionality not required for operation of its Super-Vectoring service offering.<sup>4</sup> This stands in direct contradiction to Sckipio's experience with this technology and knowledge of the industry. Because DT's Super-Vectoring service offering is implemented by certain Broadcom Corporation ("Broadcom") chips, Broadcom can resolve this debate once and for all by responding to the specific and narrowly tailored discovery requests that are the subject of this application. Thus, the question presented by this application is narrow and simple: When Broadcom chips are used to provide DT's Super-Vectoring service offering in Germany, do they practice Annex A of the G.Vector Standard, or a technological equivalent? Sckipio believes that the answer to this question is "yes." In any event, it will be a simple matter for Broadcom to confirm one way or the other in response to this application.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> International Telecommunication Union (ITU) "recommendations" are technical documents that outline the requirements for compliance. *See generally* ITU-T Recommendations, https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/publications/Pages/recs.aspx (last visited June 7, 2024). Although called a "recommendation" they are in fact standards used by the industry to ensure interoperability of components used to implement the recommendations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Declaration of John S. Goetz ("Goetz Decl."), ¶¶ 3, 4, 6.

 $<sup>\</sup>int_{0}^{3} Id.$ ¶ 6.

 $<sup>|^{4}</sup>$  *Id*. ¶ 4.

As such, Sckipio respectfully requests that the Court permit the requested discovery pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782. To facilitate this request, Sckipio has attached the following papers to this petition:

Application Exhibit	Description
Application Exhibit A	Proposed Subpoena duces tecum,
	with Attachment A (document requests)
Application Exhibit B	Proposed Subpoena ad testificandum,
	with Attachment A (topics) and Attachment B (draft
	statement in lieu of deposition) <sup>5</sup>
Application Exhibit C	[Proposed] Order to Show Cause and Briefing
	Schedule
Application Exhibit D	[Proposed] Order
Application Exhibit E	[Proposed] Protective Order
Application Exhibit F	Declaration of John S. Goetz
Application Exhibit G	Declaration of David Baum

# II. BACKGROUND

Among Sckipio's portfolio of patents for technologies used in very high-speed digital subscriber line (VDSL) services, is Sckipio's European Patent No. 3,306,826 ("the '826 Patent").<sup>6</sup> The '826 Patent covers Sckipio's innovative transmitter-initiated gain adjustment ("TIGA") technology, which is essential to Annex A of the G.Vector Standard.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In an effort to ease the burden on Broadcom, as noted in the proposed deposition subpoena, Sckipio will accept a statement from Broadcom along the lines proposed in Attachment B to that subpoena, in lieu of the requested deposition.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Declaration of David Baum ("Baum Decl.")  $\P\P$  3.

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DT implements G.vector (profile 35b)<sup>8</sup> in Germany with its 250 Mbit/s VDSL services, sometimes referring to this service as its "Super-Vectoring" service. Sckipio has confirmed that the following Broadcom chips are included in certain customer premises equipment ("CPE") modems that the ultimate end-users use to connect to DT's Super-Vectoring service:<sup>9</sup>

- BCM 63138
- BCM 63158
- BCM 63168
- BCM 63178

In implementing DT's Super-Vectoring network, the end-user's CPE equipment connects to equipment controlled and maintained by DT, often referred to as the Central Office equipment ("COE"). Sckipio believes that DT's COE uses the following family of Broadcom chips to implement its Super-Vectoring service in Germany: BCM65x00.<sup>10</sup>

The focus of the present application is whether these chips (the "Broadcom Chips"), when implementing DT's Super-Vectoring service in Germany, necessarily practice Annex A of the G.Vector Standard, or a TIGA-equivalent technology.

Because Sckipio had reason to believe that DT uses Annex A (along with related technologies covered by Sckipio's SEP portfolio), in January 2024, Sckipio contacted DT offering

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "VDSL2 35b operates on frequencies up to 35.324 MHz with subcarrier spacing of 4.3125 kHz and supports vectoring that is compatible with ITU-T G.993.2 profile 17a. VDSL2 35b supports service providers to optimize their network infrastructure, provides simplified deployment and provisioning options, thereby lowering the overall operational cost for implementing ITU-T G.993.2." G.Fast and VDSL2 35b Profile,

https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/routers/access/1100/software/configuration/xe-16-7/cisco\_1100\_series\_swcfg\_xe\_16\_7\_x/cisco\_1100\_series\_swcfg\_xe\_16\_7\_x\_chapter\_010101.pd f (last visited June 7, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See Baum Decl. ¶ 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See Baum Decl. ¶ 7; BCM65x00 Family Central Office High Density Multi-DSL Chipset, https://www.broadcom.com/products/broadband/xdsl/bcm65x00-family (last visited June 24, 2024).

a FRAND<sup>11</sup> license to its SEP portfolio.<sup>12</sup> DT has taken the position that Annex A is merely an "optional" functionality without providing any supporting technical documentation about how its Super-Vectoring service operates in fact.<sup>13</sup> Instead, DT is seemingly relying on the following language from ITU-T Recommendation G.993.5 and arguing that this language demonstrates that Annex A is merely optional and not required for implementation of a G.Vector Standard compliant service: <sup>14</sup>

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#### Annex A

#### Mitigating strong FEXT

(This annex forms an integral part of this Recommendation.)

#### A.1 Introduction

This annex defines a method for mitigating strong FEXT.

This annex is an optional functionality, only applicable if the VTU is operating according to Annex Q of [ITU-T G.993.2].

The functionality defined in this annex includes:

- transmitter initiated gain adjustment for VDSL2 transceiver (TIGAV) procedure;
- use of extended error clipping threshold.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Standard-setting in patent-rich environments often requires participants to disclose relevant patents that they own and license patents essential to the standard to all participants on fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory (FRAND) terms." Herbert Hovenkamp, *FRAND and Antitrust*, 105 Cornell L. Rev. 1683 (2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> *See* Goetz Decl. ¶ 3, 4, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> *Id*.  $\P$  4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> ITU-T Publications, Recommendation ITU-T G.993.5 Self-FEXT cancellation (vectoring) for use with VDSL2 transceivers 76 (Rec. ITU-T G.993.5 (02/2019), https://www.itu.int/rec/dologin\_pub.asp?lang=e&id=T-REC-G.993.5-201902-I!!PDF-E.

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kipio disagrees with this interpretation<sup>15</sup> and independently believes that, regardless of this nguage, either that all Broadcom-Chip-based G.Vector Standard compliant systems must use nnex A (and thus Sckipio's innovative TIGA functionality), or equivalent technology, or that at ast DT's Super-Vectoring service in Germany is implemented using the Broadcom Chips and actices Annex A or an equivalent technology. 16 In any event, the requested discovery from oadcom sought by this petition will render the debate over the language of the standard moot r present purposes.

The requested information from Broadcom is narrowly tailored. Specifically, Sckipio nply seeks the following information:

- (1) Documents sufficient to show that each of the Broadcom Chips are configured necessarily to practice Annex A when connected to and operating in accordance with a Super-Vectoring service compliant with the G.Vector Standard, profile 35b. 17
- (2) Alternatively, documents sufficient to show that DT's Super-Vectoring service in Germany implemented using the Broadcom Chips necessarily practices Annex A.<sup>18</sup>
- (3) A Broadcom statement (in the form of a declaration or similar, in lieu of the requested deposition) stating plainly that either or both points (1) and (2) above are true.<sup>19</sup> the event that Broadcom contends that Annex A is not necessarily practiced when used to plement DT's Super-Vectoring service in Germany, then Sckipio merely seeks documents that

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While Annex A does say the words "optional functionally" it goes on to explain that it is "only plicable" where the system is operating according to Annex A of ITU-T G.993.2, which is ofile 35b. DT's service is unquestionably using 35b pursuant to G.993.2, and thus in Sckipio's view Annex A is required.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See Baum Decl. ¶ 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See Exhibit A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> See Exhibit B.

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# III. LEGAL STANDARD

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<sup>24</sup> *Intel.*, 542 U.S. at 264 (2004).

will allow Sckipio to determine independently whether the Broadcom Chips necessarily use an equivalent technology to the TIGA functionality required by Annex A. In any event, Broadcom is in possession of the requested information, which will not be hard to retrieve.

U.S. District Courts have the authority to assist in foreign litigation by compelling discovery from a party located in that Court's district. <sup>20</sup> There are three statutory requirements and a non-exhaustive list of factors decided by the Supreme Court in *Intel Corp. v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.* <sup>21</sup>

The statutory requirements are as follows: (1) the person from whom discovery is sought resides in the jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court hearing the petition; (2) the materials will be used in a foreign or international tribunal; and (3) the party filing the motion is an interested person in the foreign proceeding.<sup>22</sup>

Once the statutory requirements have been met, the Court will consider the *Intel* factors in deciding whether to grant a § 1782(a) discovery application.<sup>23</sup> While courts may weigh the circumstances as they see fit, the Supreme Court provided a non-exhaustive list of factors in *Intel Corp. v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.* to guide the decision-making process.<sup>24</sup> Arising from the twin aims of § 1782 to assist foreign proceedings and encourage reciprocal aid, the factors are: (1)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> See 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a); Intel Corp. v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., 542 U.S. 241, 264–65 (2004).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 259-264.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a); *see also Khrapunov v. Prosyankin*, 931 F.3d 922, 925 (9th Cir. 2019) (explaining that although § 1782(a) does not identify three specific requirements, courts have understood there to be three prerequisites for authorization).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> See United States v. Global Fishing, Inc., 634 F.3d 557, 563, (9th Cir. 2011) (citing Intel, 542 U.S. at 264) (discussing that the court still has discretion to deny an application even when authorized to review).

proceeding; (2) the nature of the foreign tribunal and their receptivity to American judicial assistance; (3) the existence of proof suggesting that the petitioner is circumventing foreign discovery restrictions; and (4) whether the request is "unduly intrusive or burdensome."<sup>25</sup>

The statutory requirements are satisfied here, and the *Intel* factors support granting the

whether the person ordered to provide discovery is a participant in the petitioner's foreign

# IV. ARGUMENT

instant application.

# A. Sckipio's Application Satisfies the Statutory Requirements

The first statutory requirement is that "the person from whom the discovery is sought 'resides or is found' in the district of the district court where the application is made." This Court has concurred with the Southern District of New York in that a Court can safely determine a corporation is found where it maintains "systematic and continuous local activities" along with its presence. In 2017, this Court noted that a company was considered to be found in the district because it maintained at least one office in the District. Here, Broadcom Corporation resides within the jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California, San Jose division, because it is incorporated in California and maintains its principal place of business in San Jose, CA. <sup>29</sup> It is currently listed as an active business entity on the California Secretary of

(last visited June 20, 2020).

<sup>25</sup> *Id.* at 264–65.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> *Khrapunov*, 931 F.3d at 925.

 $<sup>^{27}</sup>$  See In re Qualcomm Inc., 162 F. Supp. 3d 1029, 1035 (N.D. Cal. 2016) (quoting In re Godfrey, 526 F. Supp. 2d 417, 422 (S.D.N.Y. 2007).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> See In re Super Vitaminas, S.A., No. 17-mc-80125-SVK, 2017 WL 5571037, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2017) (finding that a company was "found" in the Northern District because it had two offices there.); In re TPK Touch Sols. (Xiamen) Inc., No. 16-mc-80193-DMR, 2016 WL 6804600, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 17, 2016) (finding subpoenaed party was "found" for the purposes of 28 U.S.C. 1782 within the district because it maintained an office in the Northern District).
<sup>29</sup> California Secretary of State Business Search, https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business

 $^{30}$  *Id*.

State website, was formed in California, and has a principal address of 1320 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131.<sup>30</sup> Therefore, the first requirement is satisfied.

The second requirement is that "the discovery is 'for use in a proceeding in a foreign or international tribunal[.]"<sup>31</sup> The proceeding does not need to be "'pending' or imminent[,]" instead, a party may use § 1782 to request materials for a proceeding "within reasonable contemplation."<sup>32</sup>

Here, Sckipio reasonably contemplates foreign litigation against DT. Sckipio alleges that DT's Super-Vectoring service offering in Germany infringes its '826 patent and that service uses the Broadcom Chips. In light of this, Sckipio reasonably believes that the instant application will yield evidence from Broadcom that it can use to support a patent infringement lawsuit by Sckipio against DT in Germany. The second requirement is satisfied.

The third and final statutory requirement is whether the application is made by an "interested person."<sup>33</sup> A litigant qualifies as an interested person.<sup>34</sup> Additionally, a person filing a § 1782(a) discovery application for materials to use in a future foreign proceeding is an interested person" even if they are not yet a litigant.<sup>35</sup> This court has previously granted Section 1782

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> *Khrapunov*, 931 F.3d at 925.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 259.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> *Khrapunov*, 931 F.3d at 925.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 259.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> See In re Meiyoukai Med. Corp., No. 24-mc-80097-BLF, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 78920, at \*6 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2024) (explaining that a person who may file a § 1782(a) discovery application before actually becoming a litigant).

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<sup>39</sup> *Id*.

applications where the petitioner was not yet a litigant.<sup>36</sup> As recently as March 12, 2024, this Court granted a Section 1782 application in similar circumstances.

Here, Sckipio reasonably contemplates litigation against DT for patent infringement in Germany. The information requested from Broadcom will inform Sckipio's patent infringement claims. Similar to the petitioner in Geo Holdings Corp., Sckipio is a future litigant and qualifies as an "interested person" for the purposes of the third statutory requirement.

#### В. The Intel Factors Support Granting the Instant Application

## 1. Factor 1: Broadcom Is Not a Party to the Germany Proceeding

Congress drafted Section 1782 to allow litigants engaged in foreign proceedings to request discovery from parties within the jurisdiction of a U.S. District Court who may have information relevant to those proceedings.<sup>37</sup> The Supreme Court noted that there is a difference between a request for discovery from a participant in foreign litigation and a request for discovery from a party that is not a participant in that litigation.<sup>38</sup> In terms of a party to the foreign litigation, the foreign court could just order the litigant to produce evidence; whereas that same foreign court does not have the jurisdiction to order a third party in the U.S. and it would be necessary for the District Court to get involved.<sup>39</sup> Here, the first factor weighs in favor of Sckipio because Broadcom is not a party in the contemplated Germany Proceeding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> See Geo Holdings Corp. v. Google LLC, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 43768.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264.

 $<sup>^{38}</sup>$  *Id*.

#### 2. Factor 2: German Courts Are Receptive to U.S. Judicial Assistance

German courts are receptive to U.S. judicial assistance. 40 The Supreme Court has acknowledged certain foreign courts may be receptive to intervention by U.S. courts and others may not.<sup>41</sup> The absence of evidence that a foreign court is not receptive to foreign aid or a longstanding relationship between the countries, however, should weigh in favor of the requesting party.<sup>42</sup> Further, in the case of Germany, if a German Court finds the discovery to be improper, it will be able to exclude that material from evidence.<sup>43</sup>

Here, the court in the Germany proceeding will be aware of how Sckipio obtained the evidence requested in this petition and will have the ability to admit or exclude evidence in accordance with its own rules and procedures. Sckipio intends to pursue a claim in Germany against DT. If granted, Sckipio will disclose this petition and any associated documents pursuant to its proposed Court Order. 44 The judge in the Germany proceeding would then be able to decide independently whether to admit or exclude the information obtained using this petition which leaves the ultimate control of this evidence to the Court in that future proceeding. The second factor weighs in favor of Sckipio's request since German courts are receptive to receiving

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> See e.g., Lufthansa Technik AG v. Thales Avionics, Inc., Case No. 822MC00034JVSKES, 2023 WL 2908584, at \*9 (C.D. Cal. March 31, 2023) (explaining that German courts are receptive to American discovery actions).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> See id. at 261–62 (explaining that courts should not assume that a foreign proceeding does not accept American judicial aid unless there is evidence showing that the country is hostile to American aid).

<sup>43</sup> See Cryolife, Inc. v. Tenaxis Med., Inc., No. C08-05124 HRL, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3416, at \*9 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 13, 2009)(explaining that German Courts have the ability to exclude evidence not deemed to be admissible).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Exhibit E.

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judicial assistance from the United States and have a mechanism to exclude inadmissible evidence in German Court.<sup>45</sup>

# 3. Factor 3: Sckipio Does Not Seek To Circumvent Foreign Proof-Gathering Restrictions

Section 1782(a) does not require United States courts to investigate a foreign proceeding's discovery rules, but the presence of evidence demonstrating that the requesting party is attempting to circumvent discovery rules should weigh against granting the order.<sup>46</sup> When there is no evidence showing an alternative motivation, however, this factor weighs in the requesting party's favor.<sup>47</sup>

Here, Sckipio is not trying to circumvent German discovery rules. To the best of Sckipio's knowledge and belief, there is no mechanism by which a German Court could compel Broadcom to provide this documentation otherwise. Additionally, Section 1782 defines a well-established process to acquire evidence in advance of a foreign litigation. There is no presumption of circumvention. This factor weighs in favor of Sckipio because there is no evidence that Sckipio is acting in bad faith.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> See e.g., Lufthansa Technik AG at \*9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> See e.g., In re Ex Parte in re Eshelman, No. 5:23-mc-80015-EJD, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81129, at \*8 (N.D. Cal. May 9, 2023) (quoting *Med. Inc. Ass'n Smile Create*, 547 F. Supp. 3d 894, 899 (N.D. Cal. 2021)) ("Courts have found that this factor weighs in favor of discovery where there is nothing to suggest that the applicant is attempting to circumvent foreign proof-gathering restrictions"); *see also e.g., In re Murchinson Ltd.*, No. 2:23-mc-00191-SB-PD, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24321, at \*10 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 26, 2024) (explaining that courts should give deference that a party is not attempting to circumvent a foreign discovery procedure unless there is evidence showing).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> *Id*.

## 4. Factor 4: Sckipio's Request Is Not Unduly Burdensome

The final factor of *Intel* was designed to prevent court orders resulting in overly burdensome or intrusive production. <sup>48</sup> Although Section 1782 requests are inherently intrusive because they are requests for private information, they are not unduly intrusive when the request is narrowly tailored to the foreign proceeding's needs. <sup>49</sup> Even if a court finds a request burdensome, they may still grant the order, but trim the requested documentation or allow the opposing party to bring a motion to quash. <sup>50</sup>

Here, documents requested from Broadcom are not unduly burdensome because Sckipio is requesting routine information relating to the Broadcom Chips. In large part, the technical specifications, related source code, and technical data sheets are likely already distributed to customers or technicians working with the Broadcom Chips. This request has been narrowly tailored so it only accounts for what is required for Sckipio to show that DT's Super-Vectoring service offering practices Annex A of the G.Vector Standard, or a TIGA-equivalent technology. The fourth factor weighs in favor of Sckipio because the request is reasonable and is not overly burdensome since the information should be readily available.

# V. A PROTECTIVE ORDER WILL RESOLVE ANY CONFIDENTIALITY CONCERNS THAT MAY ARISE

Absent a legal privilege, courts do not evaluate concerns of confidentiality when deciding whether to grant § 1782 discovery under *Intel*.<sup>51</sup> Rather, courts have the discretion under Federal

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 265.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> See In re Meiyoukai Med. Corp., No. 24-mc-80097-BLF, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 78920, at \*9 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2024) (explaining that information necessary to establishing a complainant's foreign claim is not unduly intrusive even though it is revealing anonymous individuals' identities); see also In re Murchinson Ltd., No. 2:23-mc-00191-SB-PD, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24321, at \*11 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 26, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> See 542 U.S. at 260, 264-66.

Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) to enter a protective order to protect the confidentiality of discovered materials.<sup>52</sup> Here, a protective order will alleviate any concerns that Broadcom may have regarding the potentially confidential nature of the information being requested by Sckipio. A proposed protective order has been included as an exhibit with this petition.<sup>53</sup> VI. **CONCLUSION** For the foregoing reasons, Sckipio respectfully requests this Court grant its application for discovery pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782. 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> See In re Ex Parte Application of Apple Inc., 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66669, at \*9 (N.D. Cal. May 2, 2012).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> See Exhibit E.

1	July 3, 2024	Respectfully submitted,
2		FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
3		
4	By	Seth M. Sproul (CA SBN: 217711)
5		FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. 12860 El Camino Real
6		Ste 400
7		San Diego, CA 92130 Tel: (858) 678-4343 / Fax: (858) 678-5099
8		sproul@fr.com
9		John S. Goetz (NY SBN: 4295366) (pro hac
10		<i>vice</i> to be filed) Alexander Mazza (NY SBN: 5752704) ( <i>pro</i>
11		hac vice to be filed) FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
12		7 Times Square
13		20th Floor New York, NY 10036
14		Tel: (212) 765-5070 / Fax: (212) 258-2291 goetz@fr.com
15		mazza@fr.com
16		Susmitha Sayana (DE SBN: 007337) (pro
17		hac vice to be filed) FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
18		222 Delaware Ave
		17th Floor Wilmington, DE 19801
19		Tel: (302) 778-8417 / Fax: (302) 652-0607
20		Attorneys for Petitioner Schipio
21		Technologies S.I. Ltd.
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24		
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27	14	IN RE: APPLICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C